THE VVOOLF UNDER Sheeps-Clothing DISCOVERED:

OR

The Spirit of *Cain*, appearing in the Bishop of *Liechfield*, Reproved.

As hereafter is sufficiently manifested by the Fruits of his Sermon at *Polesworth* in *Warwickshire*.

Published for the benefit of the people in those Parts, by a lover of their Immortal Souls,

Charles Harris.

For I know this, that after my departure shall grievous Wolves enter in among you, not sparing the Flock, Acts 20. 29.

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The Woolf, under Sheeps-Clothing, discovered, &c.

IN or near the seventh moneth, 1668. the Bishop of *Lichfield* came to preach, upon a first Day, at *Polesworth*; whether many people resorted to see and hear; who, for his Text, clothed himself with the words of the Psalmist *David*, to the fourth verse of the first Psalm: And after he had patched up his Matter, and came to his last point, it was to conclude all men sinners: and that the best of men cannot be perfect; which, I know, would be very sweet doctrine to many Drunkards (and such as love their Pride and Pleasures) there abouts: But, there being by the appointment of God, a young man in the place, whose Soul loved Righteousness, and being grieved to hear such sin-pleasing, or licence to ungodliness, the Word of the Lord was as a fire in his Brest, by which he cryed, *God accepts not of the Sacrifice of sinners; therefore I warn all in the Name and fear of the Lord to repent, repent, and to return unto the Lord while they have time; neither is he worshipped in Temples made with hands; for he is a Spirit, and is worshipped in the Spirit and in Truth; therefore I warn all again to repent, and return unto the Lord; for it is their sin that makes the only separation between God and man, but he that repents, and forsakes, and returns to the Lord, there is Mercy with him*: When he had thus spoken, the Bishop (*Jeroboam* like) cryed for some to lay hands on him, and would not reason out the matter, but soon gets his way, and left the people in a confused noise; and had all the rest been as envious as the Bishop, its much, if the man had not been spoiled; but many of the people knowing him to be an honest man, it pleased the Lord to work for his preservation, and at that time had liberty out of all their hands; *but* (as *Soloman* saith) *anger resteth in the bosome of Fooles*; for afterwards the Bishop sent to warn him to his court; so the young man went according to time and place, and desired, seeing the Bishop would not stay at the Steeple-house, that now he would appear to maintain, in his own court, that

which he had delivered, or to own his ſhame; but he would not appear, nor bring him upon tryal, ſo the man returned home: But the Woolf diviſed another way, giving order to the Prieſt of the place to excommunicate him, which the Prieſt ſaid he would do, and then ſaid he, If any one run him through with a Sword, and kill him, there is no Law againſt them: You that have an underſtanding, judge what Spirit rules this man; he alſo told the young man, that he had better have broke the commands of God, and committed Adultry with any lewd woman, or to have layn drunk under a Hedge that while, meaning that time whilſt he cryed againſt ſin, and called to repentance, Oh Neighbours and People! was ever the like heard? ſurely that Propheſie is now to be fulfiled, *their Folly ſhall be manifeſt to all men, and they ſhall not proceed much further*; it's like this Prieſt is brother to Prieſt *Vincent* of *London*, who ſaid, Its better to go to a Bawdy-houſe, then to go to *Quakers* Meetings; ſurely the Merchants of *Babylon* are caſting duit upon their own heads, becauſe the Day is dawned, that people will buy their wares no more: The ſame Prieſt at another time, told me, I deſerved to be whipt at a Cart-tayl, and if he was in power to make Laws, and had the rule, he would have all ſuch as I to be hanged, becauſe I oppoſed him about Sprinkling of Children, and called for Scripture-proof: Is it not high time to poſt up the fruits of ſuch Biſhops and Prieſts as theſe? Oh, the very Nation ſtinks of them, they are a ſhame to the name of Chriſtianity. And furthermore, this Biſhop proceeded againſt his oppoſer, until by a private way, he ſent a writ, and fetched the man out of the field, not ſuffering him to go ſpeak with his tender Parents and Relations, or get his cloaths, but one pulled out a Piſtol, and ſaid, If he offered to ſtur from them, he would ſhoot him, though he never reſiſted; ſo they took him to *Warwick* Goal, 20 Miles from his Father's houſe, and there hath been kept, as a cloſe Priſoner ever ſince; and if this Biſhop hath not appeared more like a Woolf then a Sheep of Chriſt, let all true Chriſtians judg: and hath not the ſpirit of *Cain* plainly appeared in him? for [mark] *Cain* was the evil doer, and the ſin was laid at his door; and becauſe of ſin, his Sacrifice was not accepted; but *Abel's* righteous Sacrifice did witneſs againſt *Cain*; and then *Cain* (like this Biſhop) was full of wrath to deſtroy his Brother: So let all people ſee, whoſe rule

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the Bishops and Priests walk by, *Cain's* rule, for Persecution: *Balaam's* rule, for Reward: *Corah's* rule, for gainsaying the Truth: Now let us try the Bishop by his own Text, *Psalm* the first, *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly*: & yet at the same time, manifests whose counsel he takes, such as *Jeroboam*, and wicked *Ahab*, and *Herod*; but not the counsel of Christ, who bids, *Love Enemies, and overcome evil with good*; but it was no evil work to bid sinners to repent, and turn to God: (again as to his Text) *nor standeth in the way of sinners, but delighteth in the Law of God*: And yet, at the same time, himself not only standing in the way of sin, but pleading for a continuance in it term of life; surely boys and girls may see this mans confusion: Now that which fulfils the royal Laws, *is to do as one would be done by*; but who believes the Bishop would be served, as he hath done: Verse 3. *He shall be like a Tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth fruit in due season*; well, *Every Tree is known by its fruit*, but we see this old Thorn-like-man, doth not bring forth sweet Grapes, but untimely fruit, by which its manifest his root is not watered by a River of Life and Love; but by the foul black puddles of *Egypt*, such as *Pharaoh's* hard heart and root was watered by, which made him grow up in rebellion against God, and reject the counsel of his servants, and strive to bring and keep the righteous People in bondage; let all people consider this, the close of the Text; *The ungodly are like the Chaff which the wind driveth away*; well, it is sin that makes a man unlike God, and that is it which this man lives in, and pleads for: And so he, and all such, are in those chaffie notions, and amongst the husks where the Swine feed; and when the Word and Power of the Lord appears in his Servants against them, they run, and are driven like Chaff: For if this Bishop had been of the weighty Seed, he would have taken up better Weapons, and stood to his cause: But the 5th verse saith, *The ungodly shall not stand in Judgment*: And verse the 6th, *The way of the ungodly shall perish*: And so the Bishop's Text is opened, and he manifested to be one, that can use his tongue, to say, The Lord saith, and the Prophets say, and the Apostles testifie thus and thus; and so to strive to cover himself with sheeps clothing; but, its proved, he is ravened from that Life and Spirit of Love which dwelt in them, and by which they were guided to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit; even

even Meekneſs, Forbearance, Brotherly-kindneſs, and all other heavenly Vertues,&c and is following the luſts of the fleſh, according as they are declared, *Gal.* 5. 20,21. but not according to *Paul's* Exhortation, ſee 1 *Tim.* 3. alſo *Titus* 1. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. they who would know a true Biſhop, let them not miſs reading theſe places; for, although many may call the Scriptures their rule, the name of a Chriſtian now muſt not ſerve, and to live in the nature of Heathens and Infidels, tearing like Dogs, and Swine, and Wolves: and what is the matter with many called Biſhops and Prieſts of late, they begin to ſtir more then formerly to proſecute their deſign againſt the innocent Lambs of Chriſt? do you think your Seat is ſtabliſhed for ever? many of you came in hungry a few years ſince, but your great yearly revenues hath ſoon fed you up, and now you begin to kick, and grow wanton: Will not ſtrong drink and wine ſerve to content you ſtill? muſt you needs have the Saints Blood to ſup, and mingle with your Sacrifice? will not bloody *Bonner's* ſpirit be yet laid amongſt you? you would fain be blowing the Fire, the bottom of the Cup will be bitter to you: Well, take your day, and do your work, there is an eye open that ſees you will ſoon be ripe, if you go on: The Anger of the Lord of Hoſts is already kindled; and though you may fortifie your ſelves to an evil work of Perſecution; think not to ſpeed better then they which undertook it before you, for the Lord is on our ſide, before whom the ſtrength of all men is but like a Bull-ruſh; and though you may ſeek to Kings, Councils, and Parliaments, for add, in ſuch a work, the more you ſtrive, the weaker you ſhall grow; and when you have filled up your meaſure, and your iniquity is full, the ſower Grape ſhall be caſt into the Wine-preſs of God's Wrath, and your lofty looks ſhall be bowed; and I muſt tell you, from your ſeats of Covetouſneſs, and Opreſſion, and Cruelty, and Violence, you ſhall be overturned; and though you mock at Revelation, and movings by the Spirit, when this is fulfilled upon you, remember it was told you by the Spirit of Truth.

And all people high, and low, who are yet in the broad way, walking at eaſe in the fleſh, minde your latter end, and take heed of following ſuch Blind-Guids, who daub you with untempered Morter, telling you, you are good Chriſtians, and Believers, and Children of *Abraham*, and heirs of Chriſt's Kingdom, though you

you live in that which can never enter: Oh, awake to Righteousness, while the door of Mercy is open; and come to Judgment, that ye may know God's Word in your hearts like a Hammer to knock down all Satans works; and like a Fire, to burn them up out of your hearts: For, its the heart that God requires; and take heed of pleading ignorance, but mind that Light of Grace, in you, which manifests sin, and believe in it, that so you may receive Power to overcome it: For, its those that overcomes, that have right to enter the Kingdom; but sin and unbelief shuts out of it.

And all you who see the deceit of the Deceivers, and yet follow them for fashion-sake, or for fear of suffering for the Truth, if you should leave them, and walk in it: I warn you from the Lord, (unto whom one day you must give account) to take heed and consider, you have immortal Souls lies at hazard, and if you do not obey the call of God, to come out of *Sodom* and *Babylon*, you must have a share of their Judgments; for they that have eyes, and will not see, and ears, and will not hear, but sport themselves in the day time, and slights the day of their visitation, and puts far the evil day; the Lord will overtake such as a Thief in the night, and then though they may call and cry, it will be said unto such, I called, and ye would not hear, so as to answer me by obedience; and therefore now when ye call, I will not answer you with my Salvation, which in time past I freely offered unto you in the day when my Light shined in your hearts, by which you knew what you ought to do, and what you ought not to do; but you refused the good, and chose this present evil World, and the pleasures that are therein, and would not take up the Cross, but denied me before men, and set at nought my Counsel, and stiffned your necks, and would not bow to my yoke; therefore shall you have a reward according to your doings: think on this, all you luke-warm Professors, and you who love the praise of men more then to follow the Lord in the way of Self-denial, for God will not be mocked, from whom every man must receive a reward according to his works.

And now further to the Bishop and Priests in those Parts, or elsewhere, seeing they say the *Quakers* are Lay-men, and cannot understand the Scriptures, because they have not the Original, as they call *Hebrew*, *Greek* and *Latine*; these places following are sent to you to be interpreted, and that forth-with you give the true meaning

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of them to publick view, under your hands, with a plain Answer to the two following Queries; and let it be left in the hands of any of your Neighbours, called *Quakers*, directed for me.

Isa. 56. 11. *Yea, they are greedy Dogs which can never have enough, and they are Shepherds that cannot understand; they all look to their own way, every one for his gain from his Quarter.*

Jer. 5. 30, 31. *A wonderfull and horrible thing is committed in the Land, the Prophets prophesie falsly, and the Priests bear rule by their means, and the people love to have it so; and what will ye do in the end thereof?*

Micah 3. 5. *Thus saith the Lord concerning the Prophets that make my People err; that bite with their Teeth, and cry peace, and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war* (or Law) *against him.* Also see Verse 11.

Luke 20. 46, 47. *Beware of the Scribes which desire to walk in long Robes, and love greetings in the Markets, and the highest Seats in the Sinagogues, and the chief Rooms at Feasts, which devour Widows Houses, and for a shew make long prayers, the same shall receive greater damnation.*

2 Pet. 2. 14, 15. *Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin, beguiling unstable Souls; an heart they have exercised with covetous practices, cursed children, who have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of* Balaam *the son of* Bezor, *who loved the wages of unrighteousness.*

Jude verse 11. *Wo unto them, for they have gone in the way of* Cain, *and ran greedily after the error of* Balaam *for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of* Corah; (read to the end) but must this trade alwayes hold in *Babylon?*

See Rev. 18. 11. *And the Merchants of the Earth shall weep and morn over her, for no man buyeth her Merchandize any more:* verse 14. *And the Fruits that thy Soul lusted after, are departed from thee, and all things that were dainty and goodly* (as the Wheat-Sheaf, and tythe Calves, and Lambs, and Pigs, and Ducks, and Geese, and Chickens, and Eggs; as also Glebe-Lands, Midsummer-dues, Easter-reckonings, Garden and Smoke pence, and such like) *are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.* Verse 15, and 16. *The Merchants of these things, which were made rich, shall weep and wail saying, Alas, alas, that great City that was clothed in fine Linnen* (and great Sleev'd

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Surplices) *and Purple, and Scarlet, and decked with Gold, and Precious Stones, and Pearls.* Verse 17. *For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every ship-master, and all the company* (of *Balaam's* tribe) *in Ships, and Sailers* (like poor Journey-men Priests) *and as many as trade by Sea stood afar off.* Verse 19. *and they cast dust upon their heads, &c.* Do not they already begin to throw dust, and bring dirt upon their own heads, that sees their City and Building is going down, and cryes against the Spoylers of *Babylon*, and say, You had been better to have lain drunk under a hedg that while; oh, you had better have been committing Adultry with a lewd woman that while; oh, rather then go from this City to *Quakers* Meetings, go to a Bawdy-house; and rather then drink in the doctrine of Perfection from the *Quakers*, drink a cup of Poyson; surely as *Jude* saith Verse 13. *These are raging waves of the Sea, foaming out their own shame.*

There is many places more that might be collected for you; but let me see these fairly from you interpreted, and as I like your work, you may have more hereafter; and forget not to answer my two Queries, which are to you as followeth.

Query I. *What one particular Practice in matter of divine Worship of God, either of Christ Jesus, or any of his holy Prophets or Apostles, do you walk in, in truth and in reallity as they did, according to the testimony left unto us in the holy Scriptures, from the beginning to the end?*

Do not startle at the Query, but answer it fairly, seeing you say the Scripture is your Rule.

Query II. *What one particular practice is there mentioned, in all the holy Scripture, by Christ himself, his Prophets or Apostles, whereby we might know a false Prophet, false Priests, or false Apostles and Deceivers, which were in time past, or were to come in the latter times, but you are really walking in it, and manifest by it, according to the testimonies left upon record by the holy men of God, through ages, as the Scriptures witness from the beginning to the end?*

And if you do not answer, to clear your selves, these Queries shall stand upon your heads, to your shame. *C. H.*

Here is also annexed a seasonable Exhortation for the Inhabitants of Polesworth, *and neighbouring Towns thereabouts: Also a Coppy of a Letter formerly sent to the persecuting Bishop from* Warwick *Goal, where I am a Prisoner for the Word of God, in standing a faithful Witness unto him, in his Truth and Righteousness, against such as hold the Truth in unrighteousness.*

The first of the 6th Moneth 1669. William Harris, *the younger.*

HE that readeth, let him understand; read in the fear of the Lord, in whom is true wisdom, and then thou wilt not read to fill the outward ear, but turn in to the Witness of God in thy Conscience, and keep the eye of thy mind single to that which is pure of God, by which thou mayst come to a right understanding; for what is to be known of God, is made manifest in us, and God hath shewed it unto us; who hath given Christ Jesus, the Son of his love, a Light into the World, (the world is placed in mans heart) now as every one turns in the eye of their understanding unto Christ the Son of God's Love, who is Love, Truth, Righteousness, Light, Life, Wisdom; and is our all, and in all: So look not without, at outward observations, for the Kingdom of Heaven, as the professing Jews did, for the Kingdom of Heaven is within; therefore was that Parable of the woman that had lost a Groat, and she looked without, and could not find it, but when she turned home, she lighted her Candel, and swept her own house, and there she found it; So every one that hungreth and thirsteth after Righteousness, and desires their souls eternal Peace and Salvation, return home, and look not without, but turn in to the Witness of God, Christ the true Light, and in the love of God, Christ the Light, Spirit of Truth, light thy Candle, and sweep thy own house of all that which is earthly and corrupt, so wilt thou come to find the Pearl, which is of great price, which a Merchant-man had hid in his field, and he digged deep, and found it; and when he had found it, he went, and

sold

ſold all to purchaſe it; but the Kingdom of Heaven cannot be purchaſed with Silver or Gold, or any corruptible thing; therefore read in the Spirit the myſteries of God's Kingdom; There was a rich man came to Chriſt, and ſpake of many things he had done, and kept from a youth, and ſaid, *What lack I yet?* Chriſt ſaid unto him, *Go ſell all that thou haſt, and give unto the poor; but he went away very ſorrowful, for he had great Poſſeſſions:* Now if any have poſſeſſed their minds with the love of this World, and with the earthly delights that are therein, if they will not loſe their life in thoſe things, they cannot live to God, for people cannot be heirs of two Kingdoms; they muſt forſake all for Chriſt, in whom is the Bleſſing: *Bleſſed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven*; and whoſoever will not forſake all for Chriſt, is not worthy of him.

Bleſſed is every one that believes in God, and in Jeſus Chriſt his only Son in whom is the Election, in the acknowledging of the Truth, which is according unto godlineſs, unto the hope of eternal Life, which God hath promiſed, that cannot lie, before the world began, whom he hath *given a Light into the World, that whoſoever believes in him ſhould not abide in darkneſs, but have everlaſting Life*; and this is the Record, to wit, that God hath given unto us eternal Life; and this Life is in that, his Son: *He that hath the Son, hath that Life; and he that hath not that Son of God, hath not that Life*: theſe things have I written unto you that believe in that Name of the Son of God, that ye may try your ways, and examine your own hearts, and ſee what it is that is dead in you; for if Chriſt be not riſen all Preaching is in vain, who is the Reſurrection and the Life; *John* 11. 25. *I am the Reſurrection and the Life*, ſaid Chriſt, *he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet ſhall he live.*

Now let not your Faith ſtand in the wiſdom of men, but in the Power of God; for the fooliſhneſs of God is wiſer then men, and the weakneſs of God is ſtronger then men; for not many wiſe men after the fleſh; nor many mighty; not many noble are called; but God hath choſen the fooliſh things of the world to confound the wiſe; and God hath choſen the weak things of the World, to confound the mighty things, and poor things of the World, and things which are deſpiſed, hath God choſen; and things which were not, to bring to nought things that are, that no fleſh ſhould

rejoyce in his presence: but we are of him in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us Wisdom, and Righteousness, and Sanctification, and Redemption; that according as it is written, *He that rejoyceth, let him rejoyce in the Lord, and let your love be without dissimulation; abhor that which is evil, and cleave unto that which is good; for God is Love, and every good and perfect gift, comes from above, from the Father of Spirits; who so loved the World, that he gave his only begotten Son Christ Jesus a free Gift to all; who is the true Light which lighteth every one that cometh into the World, that all through him might believe:* Now every one that makes any profession of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ, see that your Faith stand in the power of God, according to the measure of Faith or Grace ye have received, which hath appeared unto all, by which through Faith and Obedience Salvation is witnessed unto all them that witness the Scriptures fulfilled in them; according to the Spirit of Truth, which was left for our example, unto whom the ends of the world is come; for the world is placed in mans heart, from whence proceeds all wickedness; 1 *John* 5. 19. as said the Apostle, *We know that we are of God, and this whole World lieth in wickedness*, in which is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, which is not of the Father, but of this World; which is the earthly part, that is got up into the heart of man, by which the true Seed is held in captivity, and is oppressed as a Cart with Sheaves.

And out of this earthly heart, and corrupt ground, proceeds Strife, Murther, Theft, Adultery, Drunkenness Swearing, Lying, Cozening and Cheating, Pride, Ambition, Self-exalting, Proud, coveting after their own hearts lusts, in which the Serpent is head, who got into man through temptation; who also tempted our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, when he took him and set him on a Pinacle, and shewed him the glory of the World, *All these will I give thee if thou wilt fall down and worship me:* Then said Jesus unto him, *Get thee behind me Satan*: So as every one comes unto Christ, and are truely obedient unto him, in the power of God, they can resist the Devil, and he will flee: But the first man is of the earth, earthly, earthlike; and so the Serpent got into man through an earthly object, tempting with the forbidden fruit, which God did and doth forbid, though things pleasant to the

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eye, and to the earthly heart, in which the carnal mind doth not see God, but lies in death, but to be spiritually minded is Life and Peace. And the Strong man keeps the house, until a stronger then he comes, which is Christ Jesus the second *Adam*, who is Lord from Heaven, who takes the Strong man, and binds him, and casts him out with all his goods; who was, and yet is exalted in the Temple of God, above all that is called God, where Christ is not yet witnessed to be their alone strength, and their all, and in all; such are of Antichrist, and are under his command, though they may profess God and Christ, Faith, Love and Righteousness: for that spirit which confesseth not that Jesus Christ *is* come in the Spirit, is of Antichrist, and denies Revelations, and also the knowledg of God: And the Serpent which was the subtil'st Beast of the field, he came unto *Adam* and *Eve*, and he would be interpreting the Scriptures, though God had said they should not eat of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil; (which is a Mystery, for great is the Mystery of Godliness, which is held in a pure Conscience,) the Serpent called the old Devil, the Lyar, he contradicted the commands of God, and said they should not dye; and so through disobedience of *Eve* the Serpent entred her, and so to the man: (and so the strong Man being got in, hath armed himself, and so keeps the house until a Stronger comes) and he hath taken the name of a Christian upon him, even he who was head in the professing Jews, Scribes, and Pharisees, who looked for Christ's coming, yet when he was come (to wit Christ) the Serpent who was got up, and is the god of the World, had so blinded their eyes; Antichrist, the man of sin, he in his members gainsaid Christ: Therefore Christ told them, *Ye are of your father the Devil, and the works of him ye will do*; and so they persecuted Christ to the death; and persecution was alwayes blind, for it proceeded from the God of the World, and doth to this very day; for God is Love, and hath given Christ Jesus the Son of his Love, who is full of Grace, and Truth, and true Righteousness, in whom is our peace and Souls eternal Salvation; who said, *Do good against evil; Bless and curse not.*

Now in true love to your immortal Souls, I beseech all, and forwarn all (in the Name and fear of the Almighty God) unto whom this may come, that you lay truly to heart, and consider your

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latter end before it be too late; and turn in to the Witneſs of God in your Conſciences, Chriſt Jeſus the true Prophet, the Spirit of Truth, that will tell you all that ever you have done all your life, and will ſet your ſins in order before you: O repent, repent, and forſake, that your ſins may go before you to judgment, for if they come after they will fall heavy: for there is no repentance beyond the Grave; ſuch as man ſows, he ſhall reap; *If ye live after the Fleſh then ſhall ye die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortifie the deeds of the Fleſh, then ſhall ye live*; for Chriſt came not to call the Righteous, but Sinners to repentance: and he is come in the Spirit, we are Witneſſes of his Glory; who is not come to ſend peace on the Earth, but a Sword, to cut down all that which is contrary unto him; whoſe Word is as a Fire, and as a Hammer; who is ſtronger that is in us, then he that is in the World, who taketh the ſtrong man armed, and diſpoſſeſſeth him of all; and overturns the Earth and the Foundation thereof; and deſtroys the old Earth, and the old Heavens, where Antichriſt the God of this World hath taken up the heart with other Lovers; but bleſſed be the Name of the Lord our God, who hath given the Son of his Love into our hearts, and hath changed our hearts, and minds, and hath ſet our affections on things above, and hath taken away the ſtony unbelieving heart, and hath given us a new heart, and hath renewed a right ſpirit in us, by which we witneſs his Promiſe fulfilled, who ſaid, he would *create a new earth, and new Heavens, wherein dwells Righteouſneſs*, (Chriſt the Righteouſneſs of God) *who came not to deſtroy mens lives, but to ſave them*: Antichriſt he perſecutes in pretence of the true Chriſt, and puts to death; (O ſubtil Serpent) Chriſt's Kingdom is not of this World, therefore his Servants will not fight; Antichriſt, ſelf-exalted man, whoſe Kingdom is of this World, he fights and kills about Religion, leſt his Kingdom ſhould go down; for if the true Chriſt, whoſe free Grace, Truth, and Righteouſneſs, which cannot be bought with money, or purchaſed with any carnal earthly object; I ſay, if the Grace of God, Chriſt Jeſus the Son of his Love, who is the true Oyl, if this take place in the heart, and therewith the Lamp be trimed, ye will be wiſe Virgins, and need not go buy of *Babylons* Merchants, or that any man ſhould teach you; but as that ſame Anointing abideth in you, it will teach you all things, which is Truth, and no Lye: then will Antichriſt's Kingdom go

down

down, which he was afraid of, (before he had crucified Chriſt) when exalted in the Scribes and Phariſees, being got up into the heart of man, yea, in the Temple of God, and would be exalted above all that is called God, (when many believed Chriſt, and followed after him) then Antichriſt ſtood up in his Members, and ſaid, *If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him; and the* Romans *will come, and take away both our place and Nation,* John 11. 48. therefore they aroſe and crucified him: but he is riſen again, and is come in the Spirit, and hath made many Witneſſes of his Reſurrection, through Faith in his Name, whoſe Name be bleſſed, and praiſed, and magnified for evermore.

Now every one prize the day of your viſitation, not knowing how ſoon your Souls may be required of you: O have not the Faith of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt in reſpect of perſons, in an outward Profeſſion, and in formality of any carnal Ordinance, as in remembrance, of Chriſt, to ſhew forth his death until he come; for he is come in the Spirit, and is worſhipped in the Spirit and in the Truth; and this is the Ordinance of God, Chriſt Jeſus, who is the Righteouſneſs of God, in whom is the ſpiritual Baptiſm; for *there is but one Faith, one Lord, one Baptiſm*: So every one keep unto that Faith which works by Love in the heart, through the Spirit, by which you will come to know the deeds of the Fleſh to be mortified, and your hearts to be cleanſed, purified and ſanctified, and ſo come to know the redemption of your immortal Souls; and this is the true Faith, and the true Baptiſm which waſheth and purifieth the heart in the water of Regeneration, through the Righteouſneſs of God in Chriſt Jeſus, by which we are come to know the new birth, born again of that which is immortal, which cannot feed upon any thing that dies of it ſelf; but of that which is living, pure, clean, and uncorruptible, even of the Bread of Life which comes down from Heaven, from the Father of all our mercies; who hath broken of his own body, and hath given us to eat of his Fleſh, and to drink of his Blood, in which is Life indeed, Life Eternal (but this is a great Myſtery) to the carnal mind in which is death: Therefore return in the eye of your underſtandings unto that which is pure and holy of God; for as the Apoſtle ſaid, *What is to be known of God is made manifeſt in us; and God hath ſhewed it unto us, who is a Spirit; and to be ſpiritually minded is Life and Peace.*

This

The Superſcription and Copy of the Letter to the Biſhop.

This for the hands of John Hackitt, *who is called Biſhop of* Liechfield *and* Coventry, *for him to read over, that he may try all things, and hold faſt that which is good.*

Friend,

I Being caſt into Priſon by thy ſervants, at thy command, for obeying the Word of God, and keeping of his Commandments, in obeying the Truth, as it is in Jeſus Chriſt our Lord, whoſe Name be praiſed and honoured over all, for evermore, whoſe Love and Mercy through the riches of his Grace, which hath appeared unto all men, hath appeared unto us; as the Apoſtle ſaid, *Teaching us to deny all ungodlineſs and worldly luſts, and to live Soberly, Godly, and Righteouſly, and Holy, in this preſent evil World*; and the arm of the Lord is not ſhortened, who is the ſame yeſterday to day and for ever; who is the Salvation of his people unto as many as believe in him: Now it is not ſuch, that ſayes with their lips, and opens their mouths, and cryes Lord, Lord, that ſhall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; and alſo talk of God and Chriſt, Faith and Righteouſneſs, and of being Believers, and yet live in their ſins, that can enter into God's Kingdom; for his Kingdom ſtands not, or conſiſts in Meats or in Drinks, or in divers Waſhings; but in Righteouſneſs and true Holineſs, without which there is none can ſee God; but ſin is an unrighteous work, by which the Enemy got into man through temptation and a lye, and all unrighteouſneſs is ſin, and that muſt never enter into God's Kingdom, nor any while they are ſervants thereunto; for no man can be a ſervant unto two maſters, God and Mamon, Chriſt and Belial; *but his ſervant thou art unto whom thou yieldeſt thy members ſervant unto* [mark] *whether of ſin unto Death, or unto Righteous in which is Life eternal.* Now in the beginning when God made man and ſet him and placed him in Paradice, he created man in his own Image,

Image, in the Image of God created he him, male and female, and God bleſſed them, and ſaid unto them, Be fruitful and multiply and gave him Dominion over all, Gen. 1. And *the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden to dreſs it and to keep it, and the Lord commanded the man ſaying, Of every Tree of the Garden thou mayeſt freely eat, but of the Tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou ſhalt not eat of it; for, in the day thou eats thereof thou ſhalt ſurely dye; Now the Serpent was more ſubtil then any Beaſt of the field, and he ſaid unto the woman, ye ſhall not ſurely dye*: but we ſee the Serpent was a Lyar from his beginning, who got in through a temptation and a Lye, by which ſin entred, through Tranſgreſſion, for which the Law was added; and for his wicked work was accurſed from God; and man for his diſobedience was caſt out from God; ſo by the diſobedience of one, many were made Sinners; and by the obedience of one, many were made Righteous; which was, and is through Faith in Chriſt; *For the Juſt lives by Faith, and without Faith, it is impoſſible to pleaſe God*: but there was and is the Faith of Devils, that works not in the love, but in the enmity, and ſo brings forth of the ſower Grape, which is ſin and unrighteouſneſs; and through diſobedience ſin entred, by which man is led captive at the Enemies will, into the corrupt nature, into ungodlineſs and unrighteouſneſs, which is the corrupt ground from whence proceeds all evil, in which ſtate there is none doth good, no not one; and in which ſtate all have ſinned and come ſhort of the Glory of the living God, in whom is Salvation and Eternal Life, through Chriſt Jeſus, who is the Author and the Finiſher of our Faith which we have received from God Almighty, from whence every good and perfect gift comes; And that Faith which comes from God alone, it works by love in the heart, and this is the Love of God that we keep his Commandments, and his Commandments are not burdenſom, *For all that are born of God overcometh this World*, 1 *John* 5. 4. But the Prieſt told me, that thou ſaidſt to him, thou ſtrangeſt at me, that I oppoſed thee in that particular above all the reſt, for thou well remembredſt what thou were ſpeaking of, thou were come to thy laſt point, and to conclude, that all were miſerable ſinners, and thou ſaidſt all the World

would confess that they were Sinners; now, as it is written, 1 *John* 5. 19. *We know that we are of God, and the whole World lyeth in wickedness*; and the World loves its own, in which is the lust of the flesh; the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, which is not of the Father, but of this World. And when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had put the Sadducees to silence, one of them, which was an expounder of the Law, asked him a Question, saying, *Master, which is the greatest Commandment in the Law?* Jesus said unto him, *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind; and the second is like unto this, Thou shalt love thy Neighbour as thy self*, Matthew 22.

Now to the witness of God, in thy Conscience, do I speak, which, if thou turn in to it, it will tell thee whether thou art faithful herein, and whether thou doest act herein according to Christ's Doctrine; and the Scriptures which was given forth from the Spirit of Truth freely, and not to be made a trade of for money; neither can the gift of God be purchased with money, if so then would *Simon Magus* have purchased the Kingdom of Heaven with money, and the rich of this World; but Christ's Kingdom stands not in corruptable things, but in that which is uncorruptable, and is Pure, Holy, Righteous, and Eternal of God; therefore said Christ unto them, in the dayes of old, *Except a man be regenerated and born again he cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven*; *Read the Scriptures* (as Christ said) *for they are them which do testifie of me, but you will not come unto me, that you might have Life.* Now many have a life in the earthly part, serving their own hearts lust, but whosoever will follow Christ, let him forsake himself, and take up his cross and follow him; and whosoever will not take up his cross and deny himself daily, is not worthy of him; *And whosoever will save his life, shall lose it; but whosoever shall lay down his life for my Names sake, and the Gospel, the same shall find it; For what shall it profit a man though he should win the World, if he lose his soul, or what exchange shall a man give for his soul: And whosoever shall be ashamed of Me and my Words among st this adulterous and sinful Generation, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed also, when he cometh in the Glory of his Father with his holy Angels,*

Mark

Mark 8. And he that fulfils the lust of the flesh, he shall dye, but if thou through the spirit do mortifie the deeds of the flesh, then shalt thou live; so now, doest thou know the new birth? art thou regenerated and born again, not of flesh and of blood, but of the Water, and of the Spirit? the Water washeth, and the Spirit purifieth the heart through Faith in Christ, by which we come to witness Mortification, Redemption, Sanctification and newness of Life, by the Power of God revealed in Christ, whose Blood was shed for his people; now that none make his Blood, his Covenant, his Commandments of none effect by their Traditions, *For the Blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin*; and it is only the sins of people that makes the separation between God and man, [mark] *Your sins hath separated between me and you, saith the Lord God*; and as it is written, *He heareth not sinners, neither doth he accept of the Prayers, or Teachings, or any Sacrifices of sinners, while they remain in their sins*; but he that comes to believe in God and in Jesus Christ, and repents and forsakes shall find Mercy; but he that hideth his sins shall not prosper; so that it is good for all to confess and to forsake, and not alwayes to be making a confession of miserable sinners year by year, and so all a mans life time; this is but the sacrifices of the wicked, which is abomination in the sight of the pure God; therefore confess and forsake and return to the Lord while thou hast time, that if thou hast not sinned out the day of thy visitation, thou mayest find Mercy with the Lord; for there is no repentance beyond the Grave; *For as the Tree falleth, so it lieth; and as death leaves, so Judgment finds*; and if any dies in their sins, which is the transgression of the Royal Law of God, for which the Law was added, now when God shall come at the last day to call all to Judgment, for their deeds done in their Bodies, whether good or evil; if thou hast done well, thou shalt be accepted, if not, sin lies at the door: then he that hath done well, and wrought out his Salvation with fear and trembling, and hath known the Living Faith that works by love, to have purified his heart from dead works, to serve the Living God in newness of Life, and therein hath stood a living Witness for God, and hath abode faithfull to the end; to such it will be said, *Come, ye blessed of my Heavenly Father, enter into the joy of the Lord*: but unto such

as have been unfaithfull, and have not known the bridle to the Tongue, nor have not through the Spirit mortified the deeds of the Flesh, and so never come to witness Redemption by Christ Jesus, but hath hid their Talent in their earthly hearts; such may cry, Lord, Lord, and bring their Talent or Gift, and give it to the Lord, as the unprofitable Servant did, as is mentioned in the Parable: but mark the answer, though they cried, Lord, Lord, and brought him his own righteousness, which they had hid in their earthly hearts, but never joyned their hearts, which the Lord required, (the heart above all things) but it is a manifest token, that such served themselves, and not the Lord, who never improved his Talent; [mark] what was the Sentence of such, *Depart from me ye Workers of Iniquity, into everlasting punishment, prepared for the Devil and his Angels.*

Thus in true love unto thy Soul, in the fear of the Lord, I warn thee, before Night comes, when no man can work: and also, I would have thee consider of thy late proceedings against me, who am an innocent man: first, I not knowing of thy being at *Polesworth*, until I saw thee in the Synagogue, unto which place I was sent by the Spirit of the Living God, to warn all people to repent of their sins, and to return unto the Lord, and saying, God accepted not the Sacrifices of Sinners; neither is he worshipped in Temples made with hands, but according to the Scriptures of Truth declared, how that he is a Spirit, and is worshipped in the Spirit, and in the Truth; and therefore I warned all to repent, and to forsake their sins; and to return to the Lord, for there is mercy with him: and this was but according to the Spirit of Truth, and the Apostles Doctrine; *That if any thing was revealed unto him which stands by, let the first hold his peace*: but herein thou manifested thy self not to be in the Apostles Doctrine; (who called for Officers to hale me out of the Synagogue) but of those which cannot abide sound Doctrine; also thou art one of those which Christ foretold of; saying, *They shall hale you out of their Synagogues, and they shall excommunicate you:*

1 Tim, 5. 20. *Them that sin to rebuke openly; that the rest may also fear.*

Rom. 12. 14. *Bless them that persecute you, bless I say, and curse not.*

ex-

examine thy ſelf, whether thou haſt not been acting in this work of late, contrary to the Doctrine of Chriſt, who when he taught his Diſciples to pray, ſaid, *Pray on this wiſe, Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven, and forgive us our debts, or treſpaſſes, as we forgive them that treſpaſs againſt us*; but herein thou haſt manifeſted thy ſelf not to keep Chriſts Commands; now if the Lord ſhou'd forgive thee according to thy works, who hath caſt a man in Priſon for ſpeaking the Truth, and hath done thee no wrong, or oweth thee any thing, or any man, but love. And again, when *Peter* ſaid unto Chriſt, *How oft ſhall my Brother ſin againſt me, and I forgive him? unto ſeven times? Jeſus ſaid nnto him, I ſay not to thee unto ſeven times, but unto ſeventy ſeven times*, Matth. 18. 22. and ſo read on to the end of the Chapter, of the Parable of the Debtor, of that hard-hearted man, that would not forgive his Brother, that had treſpaſſed againſt him, mark the ſeverity of the Lord; *So likewiſe ſhall my Heavenly Father do unto you, except ye from your hearts forgive each one to his Brother their treſpaſſes*, Verſe the laſt.

But I have not ſinned or treſpaſſed againſt thee, yet thou haſt caſt me into Priſon only for keeping Chriſt's Commands; therefore greater will be thy condemnation, except thou repent, and return to the Lord, before it be too late, when there is no place of repentance to be found.

And whereas it is reported we deny the Scriptures, and are unlearned, and unmannerly becauſe we ſpeak the Truth, as thee or thou, thy or thine to a ſingle perſon; read from *Geneſis* to the *Revelation*, and ſee where it is you or your to a ſingle perſon; but they are unlearned, that have not learned Chriſt, and follows not his Doctrine, but *Teacheth for Doctrine the commandments of men*, *Mark 7. 7.* and ſuch are unmannerly that ſpeak not Truth, but runs on according to their own hearts luſt, not knowing a bridle to their tongue, and are from the pure fear of the Lord, in their hearts, which keeps clean, but runs on in the broad way into evil communication, that is it which corrupts good manners.

And much more might be ſpoken according to the Scriptures of Truth, which we own and practice according to the Spirit of Truth

Truth from whence they were given forth: and therefore I desire that all people may read them, profess them, and possess them, that they may live the life of them, for which end they were given forth freely, and not to be made a trade of.

Again, read the Scriptures, and see who it was all along that persecuted about Religion, *Pharaoh* the hard-hearted one; *Ismael* a Mocker; *Cain* a Man-slayer, the envious one; *Herod* the Adulterer, that cut off *John Baptists* head, and slew the innocent Children, aiming at Christ, whom the Scribes and Pharisees, Elders, and the high and chief Priest fulfilled, with many that followed after him, (to wit Christ)

Again, read the Scriptures, and see where the Prophets, Christ, or his Apostles, or any of the holy men of God persecuted about Religion; but Christ said, *When ye are persecuted in one City flee to another*: or when they were *mocked, reproached, reviled, and shamefully intreated, or buffetted, and smitten on the one Cheek, turn the other also*: read *James* 2. 20, 27.

So Christ's Commands are contrary to thine, which is, *to do good against evil*, and not to render evil for evil; *but bless, and curse not, and pray for them that dispitefully use you*, for God is Love.

Therefore examine thy self, and see whether of these footsteps thou treadest in, who sent thy Servants with a Writ of Excommunication, who came unto me to the Plough, and violently haled me away; and one of them came with a Lye in his Mouth, saying, He was come to cite me again to the Court; but it was to take me to Prison, unto which I never resisted, but went freely to suffer for the Name of Christ; for he hath not only called a people to believe in his Name, but also to suffer: read the Epistle of *Jude*.

And so Christ's Prophesie is fulfilled in this day, who said, *They shall Excommunicate you, and cast you out of their Synagogues; yea, if they kill you, they shall think they do God Service*. And the other, as I was going with them, about a Lands-length from the Teem, pulled out a Pistol, threatning, if I offered to resist them, to slay me: Read *Titus* 1. 7. to the last Verse.

And

And ſo the Teem was conſtrained, as I heard ſince, to return with the Seed home again: Are theſe the Fruits of Chriſt, who ſaid, *his Kingdom was not of this World, therefore his Servants would not fight?* And art thou a Biſhop like unto *Timothy*, that was blameleſs? O conſider of theſe things before it be too late, and lay them truly to heart, for the good of thy Soul; and do not diſpiſe me becauſe of my Youth; but forſake that perſecuting ſpirit of *Saul*, that thou may'ſt become a preaching *Paul*; But if thou periſh, I am clear of thy Blood.

Warwick, *the* 3*d Moneth* 1669. *W. H.*

THE END.

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